

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04181 150713Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /100 W
-----150725Z 073379 /13

R 150611Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7130
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTW ENRG TS LY
SUBJ: ALGERIA TO ITALY PIPELINE

REF: TUNIS 4042

1. ITALIAN SPECIAL ENVOY CESIDIO GUAZZARONI DEPARTED TUNIS JUNE 8 AFTER HE AND ECONOMY MINISTER LASRAM, IN THE PRESENCE OF ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GIUFFRIDA, TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO ROME BEN ARFA AND MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, HAMED AMMAR, SIGNED A "PROCES VERBAL" ON THE REVIVED PROJECT FOR AN ALGERIA TO SICILY GAS PIPELINE TRANSITTING TUNISIA. THE TALKS, IT WAS INDICATED, ARE TO RESUME SOON IN ROME. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, GUIZZARONI CREDITED PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA FOR HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PROJECT AND HE AND LASRAM REFERRED TO THE INTEREST--AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS--WHICH COULD ACCRUE TO ALGERIA AS WELL AS ITALY AND TUNISIA.

2. COMMENT: A KNOWLEDGEABLE TUNISIAN OFFICIAL TOLD US JUNE 11 THAT THE TUNIS TALKS DID NOT DEAL WITH SPECIFICS, BUT WERE INTENDED TO RAISE THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A HIGH INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. HE SAID THERE NOW IS HOPE THAT THE ALGERIANS WILL COME
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THROUGH WITH A SWEETENER FOR ITALY PERMITTING THE LATTER TO OFFER THE GOT BETTER TERMS--PERHAPS HALVING THE 4.5 PERCENT OF THROUGHPUT OFFERED BY ENI AND THE 10 PERCENT DEMANDE BY THE TUNISIANS.

3. THIS OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE REOPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN PRESSED BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HIMSELF, WHO WAS UNHAPPY

WITH THE COLLAPSE OF TALKS LATE LAST YEAR. THE PRESIDENT SENT
DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY MOHAMED SAYAH TO TOME
FOR TALKS, LEADING THE ITALIAN DESPATCH OF SPCIAL ENVOY
GUIZZARONI TO ALGIERS AND TUNIS. THE ITALIANS HAVE MADE CLEAR
THEIR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE PROJECT--BUT THAT IT IS THE
ALGERIANS, PERHAPS INDIRECTLY, WHO MUST PAY IF TUNISIA IS TO
BE OFFERED A BETTER DEAL.
MULCAHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS04181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770213-0323
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770652/aaaabtys.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7317077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 4042
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2136521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIA TO ITALY PIPELINE
TAGS: ELTN, ENRG, TS, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7317077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009